**Adolf Eichmann**

*Brittany C.*

Although Adolf Eichmann was a malicious man, he was very interesting to study. Eichmann was born into a middle class protestant family in Cologne, Germany on March 19, 1906. He was recorded as one of the most feared and hated Nazi leaders. He was responsible for the deaths of millions of Jews during the World War II era. His mother died when he was only 10 years of age, and the family then decided to move to Linz, Austria after the death. Eichmann had 3 brothers and a sister, and unlike them, he was a poor student in school. He was teased by his classmates for his looks and dark complexion, and then further nicknamed “the little Jew” by them. Adolf Eichmann also attended the same secondary school as Adolf Hitler had some 15 years earlier. Eichmann failed to complete his engineering studies, and went through a variety of jobs before he was suggested by a friend to join the Austrian Nazi Party. He joined on April 1, 1932 at the age of 26. He later went on to become a member of the SS-Obersturmbannfuehrer and became the head of the Department of Jewish Affairs in Gestapo. He was also the Chief of Operations in the deportation of approximately 3 million Jews to extermination camps. Additionally, he organized the Wannsee Conference of January 1942. After everything was over with, Adolf Eichmann was trialed in Jerusalem on the counts of crimes against Jewish people, crimes against humanity, and war crimes. He was found guilty on all charges and sentenced to death. On May 31, 1962, the State of Israel carried out the only death sentence in it’s history; Adolf Eichmann was executed.

To me, Adolf Eichmann was an extremely interesting yet awful man. You can see why he may have taken action in the Holocaust. He grew up with no mother, did horribly in school, and was picked on throughout his childhood years. Additionally, he was pretty much a failure in careers. It is also interesting to study Eichmann because he took part in the concentration and extermination camps which happens to be my favorite part of the Holocaust. He was the man who directed the death of the majority of the Jews in these camps under not only his commands, but others such as Adolf Hitler and Heinrich Himmler. Adolf Eichmann is interesting, and I am glad that I had the opportunity to research this man whom I never even knew existed or created such an impact on the world.